

Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929

The Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 proposes an update to the U.S. Registry law that could help millions of hardworking long-term U.S. residents. More specifically, the bill would:

- amend the existing Registry statute by moving the eligibility cutoff date so that an immigrant may qualify for lawful permanent resident status if they have been in the U.S. for at least seven years before filing an application under Registry; and
- Preempt the need for further congressional action by making the eligibility cutoff rolling, instead of tying it to a specific date, as it is now.

Registry Explained

The Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 would provide long-term residents meaningful access to the legal immigration system by updating section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act known as Registry. The Registry statute was first enacted in 1929 and allows certain immigrants who have built lives in the United States to regularize their status. It creates a discretionary process by which immigrants who have resided in the U.S. for many years may apply for and obtain a green card, after undergoing extensive vetting. Individuals must also establish eligibility through rigorous but fair criminal bars.

Since Registry was first established, it has been modified four times – most recently under the Regan administration – to modernize restrictions and advance the cutoff date for eligibility. However, the provision has remained unchanged since 1986, and to qualify today, an immigrant must have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 1972 – more than 50 years ago. Thus, Registry is no longer fulfilling its intended purpose, as the cutoff date for eligibility is too far in the past to be relevant for most people.

Given that context, the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 is essential legislation to preserve Registry, an immigration policy that was enacted and strengthened under both Democratic and Republican administrations throughout the 20th century. By simply updating this existing program, the bill would provide a much-needed pathway to a green card for millions of Dreamers, forcibly displaced people, highly-skilled members of our workforce, and other deserving immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for at least seven years but have no other straightforward means to regularize their status.

Endorsing Organizations:

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), Adelanto Visitation & Advocacy Network, Adhikaar, Advocating Opportunity, African Communities Together, Ahri for Justice, Aldea – The People's Justice Center, Alianza Americas, American Civil Liberties Union, Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC), Bay Area Coalition for Citizenship and Economic Rights, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF), CASA, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Center for Popular Democracy, Central American Resource Center Of Northern CA - CARECEN SF,

Chinese for Affirmative Action, Church World Service, Cleveland Jobs with Justice, Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Communities United for Status and Protection (CUSP), Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB), Community Change Action, Faith In Action (LA RED), First Focus Campaign for Children, El Concilio Family Services, Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC), Envision Freedom Fund, Freedom Network USA, FWD.us, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Hispanic Federation, Human Agenda, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), Immigrant Defenders Law Center, Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA), Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Japanese American Citizens League, Make the Road Connecticut, Make the Road Nevada, Make the Road New Jersey, Make the Road New York, Make the Road Pennsylvania, Movement for Justice in El Barrio, National Immigration Law Center, NAKASEC Action Fund, National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), National Partnership for New Americans, New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), Pilipino Association of Workers and Immigrants (PAWIS), Promesa Boyle Heights, SALVA, San Bernardino Community Service Center, Inc, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), SEIU CA, SEIU Local 2015, SEIU-United Service Workers West, The Immigration Hub, The LGBTQ Center OC, TODEC Legal Center, UndocuBlack Network (UBN), UnidosUS, Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center, Woori Center, Woori Juntos.